

# LA SS 30th Reunion

Contents: Name List, Management  
Committee Spreadsheet, Letters/Pictures



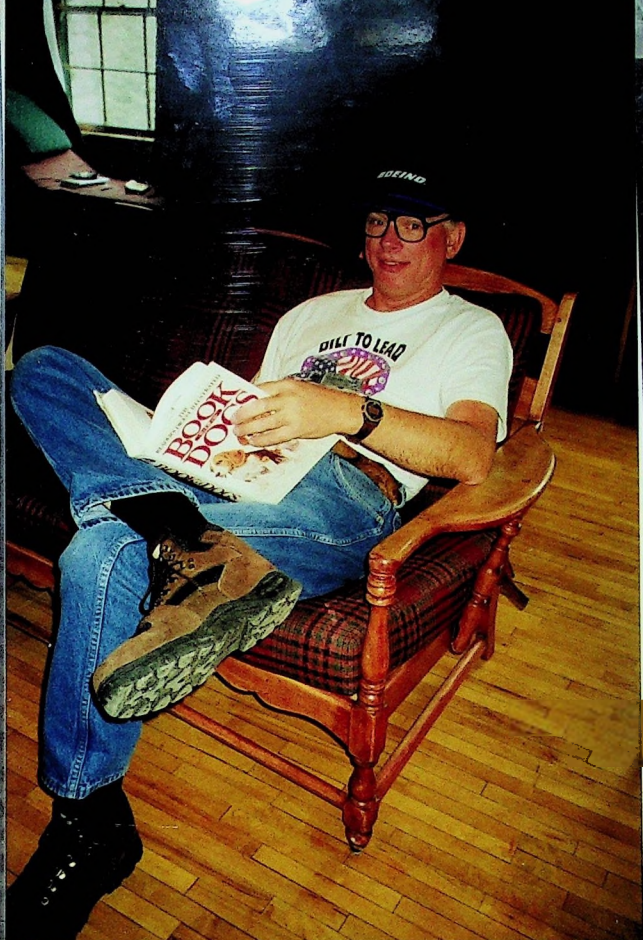
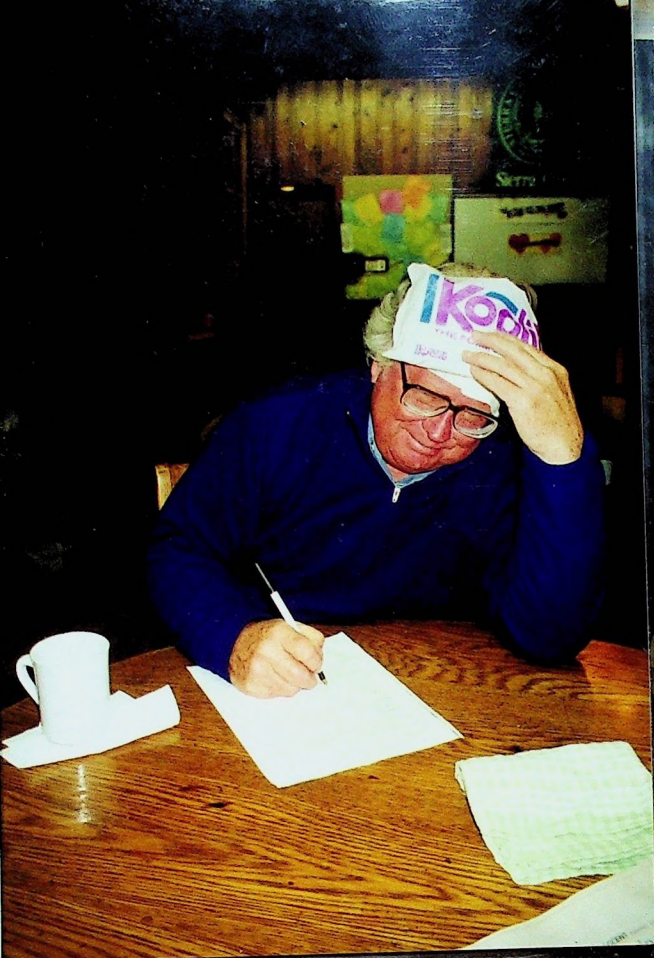
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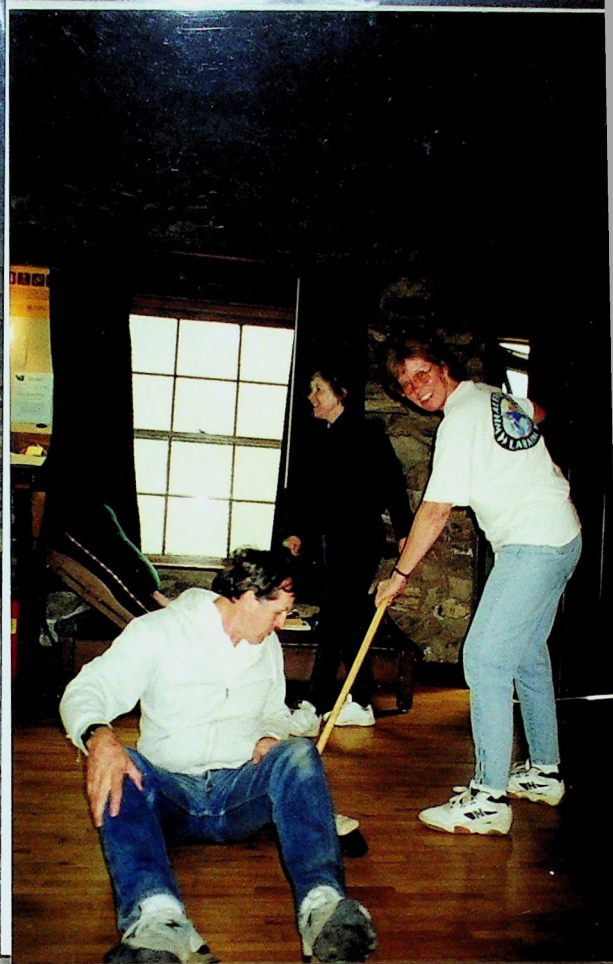




















George: Here is what I sent to Donna



















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George: Here is what I sent to Donna.



month

08/15/2001



**George Thuro**

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**From:** <Dorislef@aol.com>  
**To:** <donnaspecht@juno.com>; <gthuro@earthlink.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 09, 2000 12:26 PM  
**Subject:** OCSS's beginning

Dear Donna,

I finally got hold of George and talked to him at length and will add to his draft a few comments. He did not remember facts about our ski trips. I left a message with Judy Sadler who led many ski trips when I did, and I am waiting for her return call. Perusing through my journals, I found X-country ski trips with OCSS as early mentioned in 1977. There may have been earlier ones. I also found an entry about my leading a ski trip for OCSS in January 1978, but it was not the first one. By then it had become almost a way of life to meet on Friday nights after work, at 6pm, at the Safeway parking lot on the corner of Lincoln and Tustin Ave to board our bus to Mammoth. About this particular trip I made a note in my journal that upon our return we found that some prankster had removed the gas caps from our cars and thrown them in the bushes where we retrieved some. We had a heck of a good time during those long drives with plenty of wine, snacks, laughter, songs, and stories. I believe that we nearly filled a bus with 45 people every two weeks during skiing season. Saturday night dinners together in the lodge were an important part of our trips, and breakfasts were also included in the price. In the beginning, we often stayed at Ullr Lodge, but later we preferred more comfortable accommodations right next to the Mail Lodge. Here follows what George already sent to you, followed by a few comments of mine:

George: Here is what I sent to Donna.

Rev 10-22-00

Rough draft 10-20-00

OCSS from the beginning

Past chairman of the Los Angeles Sierra Singles (LASS), George Thuro worked with a small group of selected Sierra Club people to help form the Orange County Sierra Singles (OCSS). The first meeting was a potluck at the home of Diane Dorrien in Costa Mesa. Diane convinced George that it would be a good thing to form a Sierra Singles group in Orange County. There were two known singles groups operating in Orange County at the time sponsored independently Jay Davis and Jon Petway. They all encouraged the Sierra Club to start a singles group in Orange County.

Originally the LASS sponsored the group and gave money to cover startup cost. George was required by LASS to attend the LASS management meeting each month

08/15/2001

to report on the progress of OCSS.

The potlucks were scheduled for the second Monday of each month starting with about 50 people. Some of the first people that offered to help were: Doris Merrifield Leffingwell, Wanda Frome Guthrie, Dick Campbell, Mike Cooper, Dick Eckert, George MacKelvey, Rasjida Mizerak, Lee Crandall, Nancy Davis, Stan Turowski, Eva Lori, Jon Petway, Ron Barnes, and Shirley Black.

With a lot of persuasion Doris Merrifield Leffingwell was elected to chairperson in 1975. She and her committee put OCSS on the map as the largest section of the Sierra Club (over 1500 members). Some of the people that helped Doris were: Joel Rosevelt, Michael Dodson, Ellen Miller, Shirley Black, Dorothy Wells, Deanne Swagle, Barbara Nevelski, Sally Thomas, Barbara Robbins Thuro, Dick Stroup, and Paul Miller, John Hunting. Doris and her committee were able to get section status in the Sierra Club for OCSS in a very short time after she took office.

Other notable OCSS officers that helped pioneered the way for the group to become successful were Allyn Cooksey, Larry Remy, Judy Sadler, and Virgil Talbott.

The first OCSS Orange Peel newsletter was published on June 1976 later to be changed to Orange Peel on October 1977. Up to that point George had cranked out the newsletter each month on a Sears sprits duplicator.

In the beginning everyone brought food and there was no charge to attend the meetings. The Orange Peel cost \$3.50/year or you could get a six month trial subscription for \$2.00.

The early meeting place was established at the Harbor Area Girls Club which, is gone now but was very close to where OCSS meets today.

(Someone needs to take it from here) I recommend that Doris Merrifield Leffingwell do this if she has time. End of Goerge's comments.

Doris' (my) additions: I recall that George and I took several trips to Hollywood where the LA Sierra Singles met to convince them that we needed our own organization because of the geographical distance.

It was harder to convince the general Orange County section that we wanted our own group status. They did not want us to split off from them, but they finally agreed and lend us \$150 to be repaid within 6 months (We managed to pay it back much earlier). With all the activities we offered, including numerous ones for single parents with children which I started, our group grew in leaps and bounds, and we kept relocating our monthly meetings to ever larger banks until we needed as large a hall as we found in the Garden Grove Community Center. At that time, in the early and middle eighties, several hundreds of us enjoyed a potluck dinner and program every months. Many of us were great friends and full of enthusiasms. I dropped out in 1985 when remarried.

Call me if you think that I might have any more info you want. I will ask Judy Sadler to get in touch with you also.



Hoping that you have an equally exciting time with your Sierra Club friends,  
Doris Merrifield Leffingwell.

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X-Sender: charlott@mail.oneimage.com (Unverified)  
Date: Thu, 18 Jun 1998 15:31:48 -0600  
To: g.thuro@worldnet.att.net  
From: Charlotte Clarke <charlott@imageline.com>  
Subject: So. Sierran article

Hi George. I'm not feeling very creative, but I did rough out something for you. Why don't you embellish it and we co-author. Or you can just rewrite it and leave me out altogether, that way you can say whatever you like without my interference!

Anyway, this seems to be the best I can do. Hope it helps.

Orange County Sierra Singles held a reunion at Harwood Lodge June 6 & 7. Previous chairpersons and board members were encouraged to attend to celebrate 24 years of existence.

About 26 people attended. Founding Chairpersons Doris Merrifield-Leffingwell and George Thuro were especially entertaining with stories of OCSS beginnings and growing pains as well as triumphs. 1987 Chair Charlotte Clarke drove all the way from central Colorado with her 4-footed friend Nelson, and shared stories of joyful living at 9000' in the Rockies. Owen Maloy drove down from Mammoth Mountain with his Irish wit, enjoyed by all.

Participants began arriving Saturday. Former chair Judy Sadler was recovering from a leg fracture and was joined in lawn chairs by numerous former board members, including Chuck Buck, Tom Ludwig, Joan Autry, Mary Morgenstern, mervyn Seldon, Dave Daniels, Gene Clinger, Marian Lockwood and Larry Remy. Many foto albums were passed around and laughter was abundant. Sunny weather made this a perfect beginning to an active weekend.

Hikers who wanted to work off lunch went up to nearby San Antonio Falls, which is running beautifully this year. The roar as you approached the head of the canyon was audible for some distance away, increasing the anticipation of the plunging waters. No one was disappointed and many in the party couldn't resist the temptation to climb down to the river and dip a foot or finger into the crystal flow.

Saturday night potluck was large and delicious. Main dishes ranged from the simple to the elegant, but the camaraderie took first place. Some late arrivals, including Virgil Talbot (who had been working up at Grace Valley on the OCSS facility there) enjoyed trading yarns and getting reacquainted.

After dinner, Chuck Buck brought sing-a-long materials and was accompanied on his guitar by Doris Merrifield on her recorder. This was followed by reminiscences by George Thuro and introductions of past board members that were in attendance. A warm, friendly evening in a beautiful lodge could not have been more entertaining.

Sunday's weather was cloudy and surreal images of peaks and trees came and went throughout the day. After breakfast, some said goodbye. Other diehards hiked all the way up to the Baldy Notch, returning to help finish cleaning and closing up the lodge.

Many happy memories followed us as we drove down the mountain.

To: g.thuro@worldnet.att.net  
Subject: Orange County Reunion  
X-Juno-Line-Breaks: 0-1,4-5,9-10,13-23,25-26,30-39  
From: e\_berry@juno.com (Elwood/Susan Berry)  
Date: Thu, 14 May 1998 00:40:10 EDT

Hi, I rec'd your Orange County Reunion the other day. What a great idea. I think we are only coming up for Saturday only. It's my mother's birthday that weekend also.

I have notice that you are missing the Aubel address, see address below. Also, I have a recent address for Richard Little also. I don't have Nancy Kenny address, but she moved out of the area last year.

Mr. & Mrs. Richard Little (Chris)  
P.O. Box 2648  
Atascadero, CA 93423-2648  
Ph: 805-466-1642 voice/T.D.D.

Please reply about the members. I tried to contact Mervyn, but she was not home tonight. I know it hard to reach me, lately I have been working 6am to 5pm. etc. I need to call Connie C. back, so she can sign up.

[illegible]

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Or call Juno at (800) 654-JUNO [654-5866]



X-Sender: charlott@mail.oneimage.com (Unverified)  
Date: Sat, 16 May 1998 13:38:07 -0600  
To: g.thuro@worldnet.att.net  
From: Charlotte Clarke <charlott@imageline.com>  
Subject: Harwood Reunion

Hi George!

I can't resist seeing so many long-time friends, so I am mailing a check to Mervyn today. Hope I can make it. Hope I don't melt crossing 1000 miles of desert....

I'll try to rustle up a few slides. It's been four years since I've used any of them. I'm enjoying life at 9000'. I walk or ski in the forest every morning for exercise. I've solo'd all the 10th Mountain huts either on skis or backpack. I'm doing really well at real estate - I specialize in getting locals out of rent traps and into little condos. I'm one of the top realtors in the county right now - lots of little deals. I've made money helping people and I like it!

Right now I'm building my dream home in the woods on the edge of town. I just love living here with nothing but mountain peaks around. You should seriously consider Colorado if you want to maintain an active life style - and of course the photo ops are endless!

I have a guest room that hardly ever gets used. It's open any time you'd like to visit and check out this county. I've sold condos to some former California people now living in Boulder, etc. They're very pleased.

I was able to buy two places with my California equity...even though this is a growing resort community (like Mammoth 20 years ago).

Anyway, it was good to hear from you. Look forward to seeing you at Harwood. I'll bring you some pictures of real estate. Rental market is good here if you want to consider a purchase...

Charlotte Clarke

X-Sender: yonder@ctaz.com  
Date: Wed, 13 May 1998 19:56:30 -0700  
To: g.thuro@worldnet.att.net  
From: Bronsart <yonder@ctaz.com>  
Subject: Leader list

I have received your invitation for the reunion on June 6th & 7th. I did not receive the list of invited leaders. Please mail me the list at:

Connie Connolly  
2361 Clarke Place  
Lake Havasu City, AZ 86403

or e-mail me the list at:  
yonder@ctaz.com or  
rttaz@ctaz.com

I will be attending the reunion and will be bringing a pot luck. I will be staying overnight. I will put a check in the mail tomorrow.

Thanks in advance,  
Connie Connolly  
(520)505-3405



To: Karikent <Karikent@aol.com>  
From: George Thuro <g.thuro@worldnet.att.net>  
Subject: Re: Reunion list  
Cc:  
Bcc:

Kari, the reunion was not advertised as an event with children. If your children are thirteen or older they will be welcome and would pay the same as an adult. We would love to have you folks come to the reunion.

Thanks for the correction for your address and thanks for the other addresses.

The program is structured around visiting and recognition of members that have given their time to making the OC Sierra Singles a great group. No plans to push any particular conservation issues or events. These are best handled at the regular meetings by people working on the committees. Glad to hear you are still involved with the little hikers. Keep in touch and hope to see you at the reunion.

Thanks,  
George Thuro

At 09:08 PM 5/9/98 EDT, you wrote:

>You have an incorrect current address for us. Any prior mailings you  
>have mailed to us were not received by us, but by our tenants. Rod  
>happened to be there today when their mail arrived and so we got your  
>latest mailing.

>  
>Rod and I were leaders with the 20s & 30s and thought that we could  
>provide you with other names and addresses of 20's & 30's leaders from  
>the past. I have more addresses of folks who live out of town/state or  
>people I know wouldn't be available for this reunion.

>  
>Jan Nemmert & Scott Weitzman  
>9621 Port Clyde  
>Huntington Beach, 92646

>  
>Ed Reyes & Debbie Renne  
>26121 Talega Avenue  
>Laguna Hills, 92653

>  
>April Stilson  
>18341 Larkstone Circle  
>Huntington Beach, 92646

>  
>Sam & Stephanie Lewson  
>5991 Littlefield  
>Huntington Beach 92648

>  
>Don & Sue Gunn  
>1388 Ramsgate Drive  
>Corona, 91719

>  
>John & Mary Romine  
>4362 Manzanita  
>Irvine, 92604

>  
>Jim Pope & Julianne Elliott  
>44330 Camino Azul  
>La Quinta, 92253

>  
>Gwen Dunning  
>3615 Elm Ave #21  
>Long Beach, 90807

>  
>You made no mention of whether children could attend in this latest  
>flyer. We could possibly just come up for the day as we have two small  
>(well-behaved) children, but not sure of any restrictions. We are active  
>with the "Little Hikers" now.

Karikent, 10:26 PM 5/11/98 , Re: Reunion list

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>Also, are you going to do any "Sierra Club-ish" agenda items? For  
>example inform about the new Orange County Office? Generate interest in  
>conservation? Just wondering....

>  
>Hope this helps. Oh, change our address...

>  
>Rod & Kari Kent  
>17941 Whitford Lane  
>Huntington Beach, 92649  
>714-840-5143  
>KariKent@AOL.com

>



May 31, 1998

Greetings to our dear friends in OCSS:

Near the end of 1991, Larry Shapiro and I moved north with two cars, one VW van, and one airplane, which we managed in two trips. Our belongings from two households followed us and included a ton or more of books. Now well settled in our Sebastopol home, we enjoy Sonoma County very much, including, of course, their excellent wines.

Luckily a local hiking group rescued us from too much slothful, lazy living. Now Wednesday is again the best day of the week as we roam coast paths, Point Reyes trails (Marin County, but close enough) and our local mountain areas. Though new friends have become dear, none can replace those we left behind, especially our hiking and backpacking buddies. Are you still doing the beginning backpack class? Those really were the good old days.

To our surprise and delight, Sebastopol and environs abound in excellent music concerts. Three chamber music groups and a superb symphony in Santa Rosa keep our week-ends filled. Our conductor also commutes to Los Angeles to conduct their Chamber Orchestra, so some of you may have heard of Jeffrey Kahane. We are not too busy for friends, though, and we were pleased to see Mary and Lee Aubel, who visited us enroute south from making a family circuit.

We will always hold a soft spot in our hearts for our friends, for our good times, and for OCSS because we met at one of the your activities -- a discussion group at Alice Forney's house. Does anyone hear from her now that she lives in the San Diego area? She devoted a great part of herself to our (your) organization, as have all of you attending the Reunion.

If anyone takes Ice House Canyon up the saddle, or makes it up to Mt. Baldy Himself, pretend we're both hiking just behind you. That's where we'd like to be.

Sincerely,

Larry

Carolyn

Happy trails,

E-Mail

Carolyn175@juno.com

LS8@juno.com

Carolyn Parker Doran

7475 Calder Avenue  
Sebastopol, California 95472  
(707) 823-5247



Carolyn Parker Doran

7475 Calder Avenue  
Sebastopol, California 95472  
(707) 823-5247



5-15-98

George Thuro  
1165 Boise Way  
Costa Mesa, Ca. 92626

Dear George,

Thank you so much for all the hard work you did preparing for an OCSS Reunion, June 6-7 1998 at Harwood. You put in many hours preparing and planning this reunion. You all should have a wonderful time. I'm sorry to say I will be unable to attend, but I'll be thinking of you on those days.

I'm sending along a few pictures and the following will possibly trigger memories for some people.

My first trip with OCSS was in 1978 on a backpack on Catalina Island. I remember two things: One, having very sore feet and two, eating an hors d'oeuvre of smoked trout as we sat around a campfire at the beach.

In 1979 I remember learning to cross country ski at Frazer Park and later skiing at Keller.

1982 I went to Havasupi with OCSS and remember the beautiful waterfalls and skinny dipping. When we reached level ground I remember dancing over to the juke box (I couldn't walk my legs were so tired) to buy a freshly made brownie and I remember hiking and coming out on a horse cuz my knees wouldn't work properly anymore. They're ok now, I was just not in good shape then.

1983-1985 There were many trips to Keller Ski Hut. Once for a workparty, we covered mattresses and pillows with brightly colored new material. At another workparty we cleaned everything in the basement and cellar. I celebrated Thanksgiving at Keller and a Christmas or two, and did a lot of cross country skiing. Keller was my home away from home.

Some Thanksgivings were spent at Claire Tappaan and we all had many an adventure at Camp Norris. I remember a canoe trip on the Stanislaus River, and a Point Sal backpack. What fun we had!!!

1986 I went to Copper Canyon with OCSS. That's an experience I'll never forget. The white knuckle trip down in a small bus around hairpin curves, the beauty of the mountains, dancing one night with the Indians, watching the colorfully dressed Indians as they walked to Easter services, taking note of the cooking facilities in the caves some of the Indians lived in. Buying Indian made baskets at Divisadero. and "oh", I almost forgot the open-air train ride over the many bridges and through the many tunnels to get there. What a trip!!!

1987 I remember a number of Mammoth Mountain Ski Trips, especially the one where I overskied my ability and broke my leg (my own darn fault) and lay on the ice for two hours before the ski patrol brought me out on a sled.

I also remember being billed \$7.50 for the use of a bed pan once I finally reached the hospital.

I cooked for quite a few ski trips and remember eating sandwiches on the bus and the pounds of party mix I made for the happy hours at both Mammoth and Claire Tappaan.

1988 Keller celebrated her 50th birthday. All the past chairs were there (see picture) and this was the year that Doris Merrifield married Harry Leffingwell (see picture). This was the year I met Frank Ryan. Meeting Frank was almost the end of OCSS for me. I was Chair for OCSS, very briefly, in 1988 and married Frank early in 1990.

1998 I no longer sleep in bunk beds, carry my bed on my back, sleep in a tent, bicycle in foreign countries, ride in the coal car of a train, cook for bus trips, do a step turn on cross country skis but I still have fun.

I've traded the above for trips to Ireland, France and Monte Carlo, skis and bicycles for rental cars, tents for the Hilton, Meridien and Palmer House. I wouldn't trade my OCSS years for anything, but circumstances do change. I hope you all have a great reunion, I'll be thinking of you and the fun you'll have reminiscing and listening to each other snore.

Cynthia Daly Ryan





5/16/98

Dear George - A little too  
far for any reunion.  
We moved to ALASKA in  
1990, to our home in Eagle  
River (16 mi. from Anchorage)  
in March 1991. Our back  
yard backs up to the  
500,000 acre Chugach State  
Park. Bear, moose + coyotes  
have wandered by our windows.

Kris Hutchin / Scott  
Bailey

Scott Bailey / Kris Hutchin on  
Nordic Ski Ass'n of Anchorage Early  
March ten to Eagle Lake. to Eagle  
Peak in the background. Chugach State Park  
Alaska  
The lake trail head is a 10 min. drive  
from our front door, then 6 1/2 miles of  
xc or hiking (summer).

~~5/16~~

Dear

Kristine E. Hutchin  
Scott M. Bailey  
104 Muldoon Rd. #417  
Anchorage, AK 99504-1403

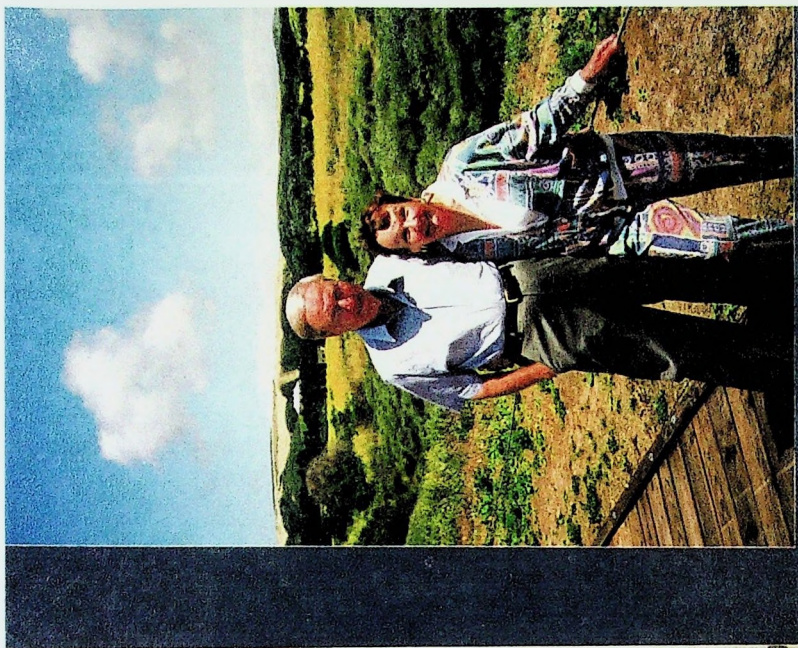
PM

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MAY

98





Frank & Cynthia Ryan  
5/98



Feb '88

Harry      Doris      George      Cynthia







May 7, 1998

To George, and everyone,  
What a nice idea! A great time  
with a great group in a great place. I truly  
wish we could be with you. Would love  
to see so many of you again. We leave  
to tour Italy and Switzerland June 3rd  
So we'll have to pass.

We're both retired, travel by motor home,  
and try to take one overseas trip every year.  
We've toured Scandinavia, France, and  
Alaska recently. Now Italy. Next year Greece.

I do substitute teaching, run a  
county-wide volunteer reading program  
down at Bowers, and enjoy all kind  
of interesting activities. Ed and I will  
soon celebrate our 13th Anniversary.  
We've remodeled the house to make

entertaining easier. You are  
Welcome at anytime.

Bless!

Anita Blackie Price  
& Ed Price





# SINGULAR SENSATIONS

## Sierra Singles marks 30-year milestone with Harwood bash

By Jeanne Karpenko  
and Rita McGreevy

Jim Schiewe came the farthest—from Alaska via Apache Junction, Ariz., where he spends the winter months. And even though his pet-sitter canceled at the last minute, he brought along his dog and cat.

Norma Tolin came with jokes and light-flashing tennis that were as eye-catching as her hat.

Mary Ann and Bill Vancil traveled from Grass Valley in Northern California to catch up and share pictures of their dogs from a Christmas celebration.

The place was Harwood Lodge, and the crowd was unmistakably ready to party as Sierra Singles celebrated its 30th year with a weekend bash April 18-19.

"It was a lovely weekend," Lee Pezauti said. "It was good to see familiar faces and meet some new people. The hike Sunday was just beautiful, with fresh air, blue sky and patches of snow."

Nine former chairs and 55 other Management Committee members and past and current leaders gathered at the lodge on Mount Baldy to reflect on three decades of service that began with the formation of a Sierra Singles Committee in March 1968. Fadil Mohamed served three years as the committee's first chair,



BOB LEWIS/SIERRA SINGLES

A Sunday hike was part of Sierra Singles' 30th reunion activities in April at Harwood Lodge.

followed by Ray Toensing and George Thuro, who planned the 30th reunion program and served as emcee. Bob Lewis and Don Stivers were the driving force behind the

committee's becoming a section in 1973. Many credit Sierra Singles with making Harwood Lodge the popular and comfortable retreat it is today.

Many Sierra Singles members formed the early Harwood Lodge Committee and continue to be active with work parties and events today. The lodge's new bunk beds are

one of the projects funded by Sierra Singles.

During the weekend festivities, Thuro wove history and entertainment into the program by bringing early copies of the section's newsletter, Sole Talk, as well as dozens of albums of old pictures and slides. He also had contacted past members who couldn't attend to solicit greetings and compiled the letters in a book. Joe Morris led a short sing-along, Rita McGreevy sang several songs, Richard Boothe baked cookies and Cy Walker told stories and read poems.

Melba Bouquet and Lowell Weymouth received a round of applause for providing a wonderful Happy Hour. Dinner came later (where and present past cooks for Saturday dinner and Sunday lunch were lauded) followed by cheesecake and champagne to toast the past and future of Sierra Singles.

Sierra Singles thanks reunion organizer Bob Lewis, reservationist Evelyn Maxwell, program planner George Thuro and overseer Russ Hansen for making the celebration a resounding success.

*Portions of this story were written by Jeanne Karpenko and reported in Sole Talk. Rita McGreevy, who sits on the Editorial Board of the Southern Sierran, also contributed to this story.*







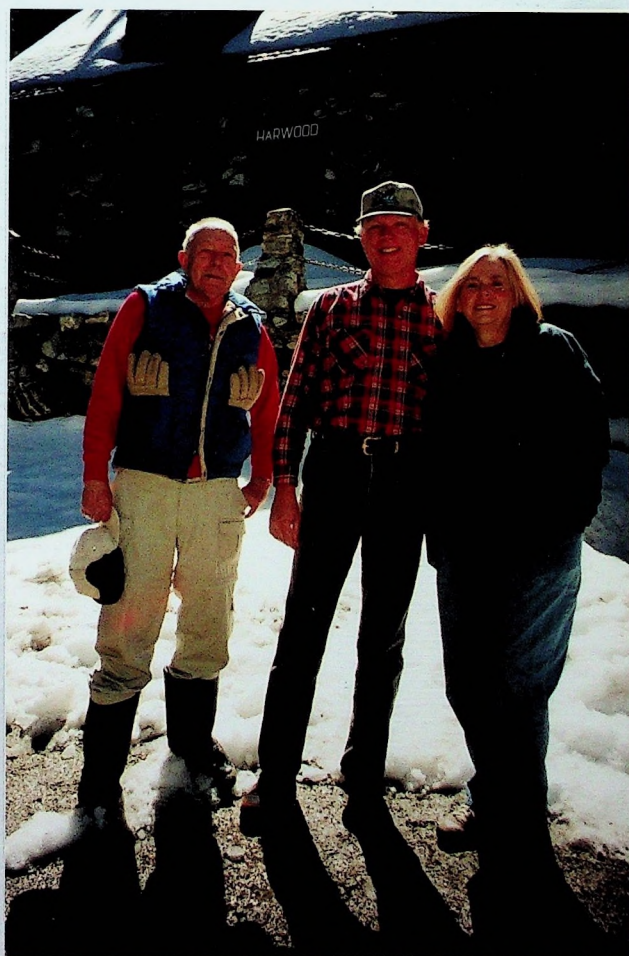
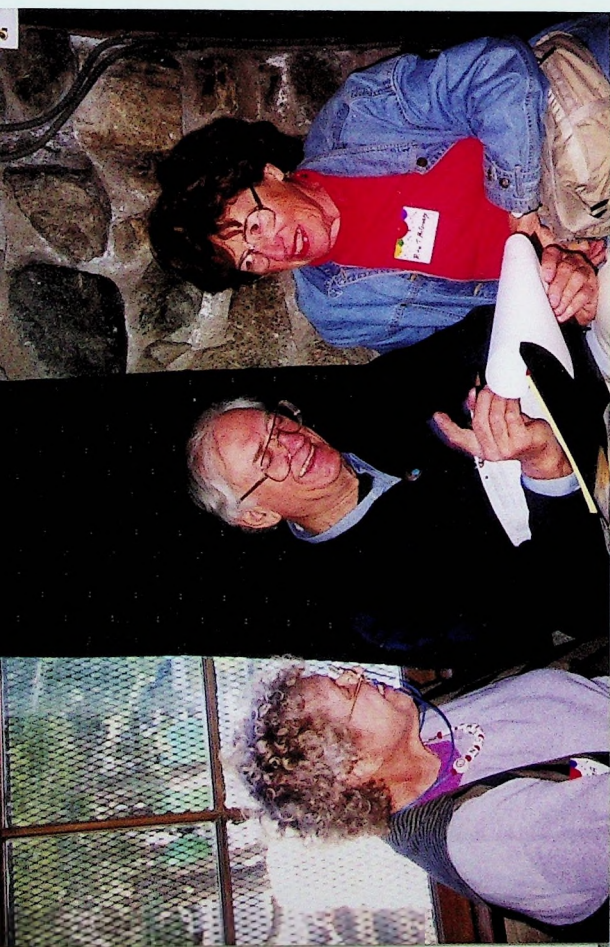
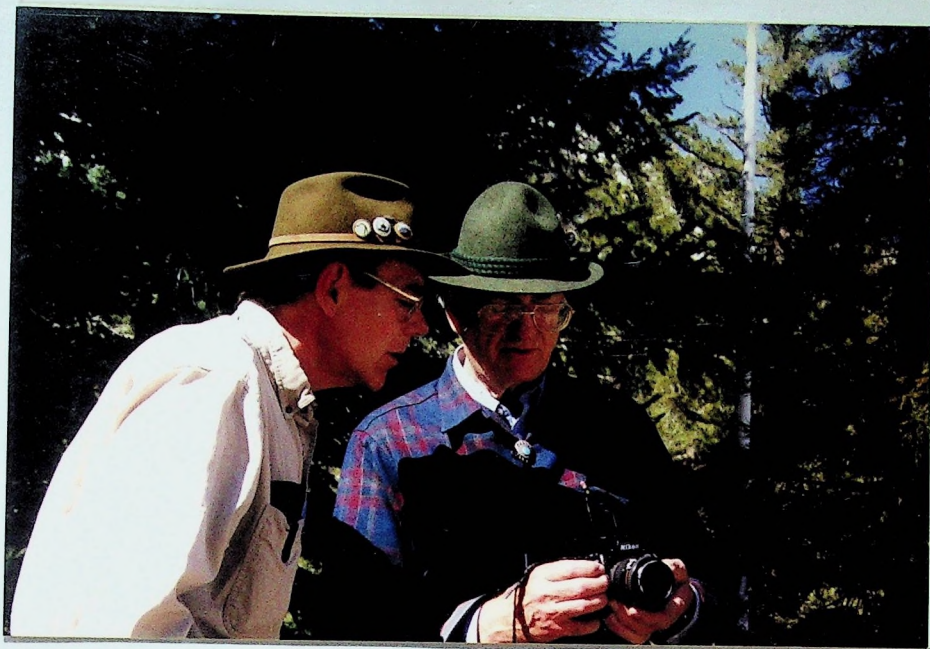






















## Sierra Singles

# You Have To Walk Fast To Keep Up With Them

By PATRICIA REID

Evening Outlook Staff Writer

For a lot of working people last Friday was euphorically toasted with traditional T.G.I.F. celebrations. Many typical Friday-after-work celebrators catapulted themselves from the office straight into the nearest pub where Happy Hour partying reigned supreme.

For about 100 singles, however, Friday after work was spent bundling up for an invigorating (to say the least) walk(?) on Santa Monica beach.

Beginning about 7 p.m., one could observe a steady stream of cars rolling into the parking lot north of Santa Monica Pier as men and women gathered for a Sierra Singles Friday night walk/cook-out. Leftover beachers stared in bewilderment at the group—wondering if it was “some kind of demonstration.”

Armin Kaufstein of Mar Vista, a leader and one of the originators of the beach walks, said the walks usually attract about 100 people (ages 21-50) and 50 or so the rest of the year.

“The only requirements are 21 years of age and good physical condition,” he said.

The walks are listed in the Angeles Chapter Sierra Club schedule (warmly nicknamed the “bible”) and take place about twice a month in the beach area. Once-a-month Santa Monica-Palises walks are held with cook-outs at Inspiration Point in Palisades Park. The other walk goes from the Santa Monica Pier towards Venice Pier and back and includes a buy-your-own dinner stop in Venice on the way.

Men and women of all ages, shapes, sizes and conditions show up. They came arrayed Friday in every possible get-up, but jeans were the number one choice of both men and women.

There were old shirts (especially embroidered Big Macs), plaid wool shirts and windbreakers. (The write-up calls for “tennis shoes and light colored clothing.”)

A real variety of foot attire could be spotted, too—“Died-in-the-wool Sierra Clubbers don’t go anywhere without lug sole boots,” Kaufstein said. Some wore beach thongs and some came barefooted while many shed sandy, wave-drenched tenies along the way.

Walkers poured in from nearly every part of LA County—some came from as far east as Arcadia (and possibly further), others were from San Fernando Valley, Orange County or southern beach cities.

John Cruger-Hansen of Santa Monica, Dick Bean of Playa Del Rey and several other leaders busily filtered through the crowd to collect “dinner dollars”—those that paid (almost everyone did) got to wear a kelly green clothespin which entitled him or her to the hamburger cookout. Other leaders passed around “sign-up” sheets (a regular Sierra Club tactic to get phone numbers?).

Just about sunset (approximately 7:40 p.m.) the 100-member group set out, led by naturalist Dick Strandberg of West Los Angeles and trail swept by Fadil Mehmed and Jack Wong. (Leaders wore identifying yellow and green stickers.)

Simultaneously Kaufstein, Crugar-Hansen and Bean (the cook) set off for a Santa Monica market armed with dinner dollars to do the shopping and then to hurry back to Inspiration Point to start cooking before the hungry walkers arrived.

Beach “walk” is a misnomer for this rapid-paced hike. There’s no leisurely enjoyment of the ocean view once the

walk/hike begins . . . leaders maintain a steady pace of fast walking usually near the shoreline where the hard-packed sand makes it easier. Usually the group splits into front and rear smaller groups. Some show-off, super-physical-fitness types jog along while the rest walk.

“Oh, it’s just a Sierra Club hike,” Strandberg said more than once to curious spectators who wondered about the large, forward-moving group.

Kaufstein pointed out that

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Thataway

. . . John Cruger-Hansen





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They're off and walking from Santa Monica Pier during Sierra Singles walk/cook-out.

(Evening Outlook Photos by Doug Andrews)



Some 100 men and women made the trek which ended at top of Palisades Park.

One Year Old

**1,000 Members—So Far**

Since its inception in April the section now mails out about 100 pages at every meeting.





Supermarket checker Kay Mazur, unperturbed, counts packages of hamburger buns.



Dick Bean parcels out 'dinner dollars.'



Back at Palisades Park, Be



the Sierra Singles section of Sierra Club L. A. Chapter has grown by leaps and bounds, according to George Thuro, a past chairperson and currently a member of the management committee.

The singles group grew out of a need for activities enabling single members to meet other singles, he explained.

"Starting up a Sierra Singles newsletter provided a way we could talk to our people," he said. Initially 150 persons were on the newsletter mailing list —

tion of a management committee and scheduling of regular monthly meetings helped get the group organized, Thuro said.

"Until the general meetings we never knew who we were," he said.

General meetings, open to any single person over age 21, are held the fourth Wednesday of every month at Westchester Woman's Club, 8020 Alverstone St., Westchester.

"There are always a lot of

rent chairperson. From 100 to 200 singles attend these meetings which feature slide shows of various club outings or talks by members.

The official purpose of Sierra Singles is: "To explore the mountains, deserts and seashores; to encourage the conservation of our natural resources and preservation of our regions of historic, scientific and scenic beauty, and to encourage public interest in protecting our environment."

The organization offers a wide variety of relatively easy outings by foot, bike, car, bus, boat, plane, as well as activities such as cooking out, skiing, ice skating, folk dancing, sailing, volleyball playing, and conservation letter writing. Reservations for individual trips must be made in advance with the leaders.

Activities are listed in the Angeles Chapter Sierra Club schedule along with events of all other sections of the chapter. Nonmembers may subscribe to schedules by sending \$4.20 (for a year) to Schedule, c/o Sierra Club, 2410 Beverly Blvd., LA 90057. Single copies are also available. A six-month subscription to "Sole Talk," the Sierra Singles newsletter is \$2 and can be obtained from Wanda Frome, 1201 E. Fairhaven Ave., 12-E, Santa Ana, 92701.

Participants don't have to be members of the Sierra Club in order to enjoy Sierra Singles outings, although they are encouraged to join.

Thuro said bicycling is the most popular event and that the group has about 60 per cent women and 40 per cent men. The majority of participants have been married before. Activities for children are also planned and a new Orange County group of about 40 participants has just begun.

Thuro said an additional 500 persons participate in outings who aren't on the mailing list and so total membership is probably about 1,000.

Bob De Wolf, vice chairperson of Sierra Singles, has conducted beginning backpacking courses in the beach area and another in South Pasadena for the past two years. These are very well attended and many singles learn the joys of backpacking for the first time. Three conditioning hikes are scheduled in the spring followed by a beginning backpack excursion somewhere in the Sierra.

All Sierra Club leaders are volunteers, and must follow and enforce strict safety and conservation regulations. Sierra Singles finances are derived solely from profits made from outings.

## Outlook On

# Living

Toni Frank, editor



Thuro presides over the coals as hungry hikers wait in line.





## LA SIERRA SINGLES –history

Joe Masters, Fadil Mehmed, Angie Stockemer, Lou Hill, Evelyn Martin, Bob Gates were enjoying an open weekend at Harwood Lodge when Joe Masters suggested that the Sierra Club have a Singles Section. The six agreed to meet at Evelyn Martin's house to discuss the matter. This meeting resulted into agreeing to have their first steering committee meeting at Harwood and Fadil agreed to be the cook. When it came time to elect a person to head up the group, Fadil was elected because he was such a good cook. A business plan was prepared and presented to the Angeles Chapter Excom committee and they agreed to give it a try.

Sierra Singles became a committee of the Excom in 1968.

Fadil Mehmed served as committee chair, 1968 thru 1970.

Ray Toensing, served as committee chair, 1971 thru 1972.

George Thuro, served as committee chair, 1973

The first meeting under the direction of George Thuro was held at the Los Angeles Federal Savings Building on February 16, 1973. The first Sierra Singles newsletter was published on March 1973. The management committee consisted of chair, George Thuro; vice chair, Don Stivers; assistant vice chair, Bob DeWolf; secretary, Ruth (Freas) Shani; recording secretary, Betty Morr; Angela treasurer, Stockemer; assistant treasurer, Jan Moore; Armin Kaufstein, activities 1; assistant activities 1, Ardeth Huntington; , activities 2, Velma Mitchell; assistant activities 2, Daphne Sturrock and newsletter editor, Kathy Teberg. Sample activities from the first newsletter are: Fadil Mehmed and Don Stivers leading a Henninger Flats Moonlight Hike, Bob Bessom leading International Folk Dancing, George Thurlow and Velma Mitchell leading a Bus Ski Trip to Mammoth, Bob Ripley and John Tenero leading a Palos Verde's Moonlight Hike, Jan Hinkston leading a Walk in the Santa Susanas Mountains, George MacKelvey and Angela Stockemer, leading Ice Skating, Armin Kaufstein and Ruth (Freas) Shani, leading a Bicycle Ride, Bob DeWolf and Don Stivers leading a Huntington Library Bike Ride. The April 1973 issue of the newsletter published the suggested names of the newsletter. They were: **Out-Adore, Single Jingle, Chattamount, Singles Shingle, Sierran Singulars, Single Signals, Vibram Beat, The Singles Source, The Beaten Path, Sierra Singles Pulse, Singles Sierran, Unbound, One-Over Infinity, Notable Events, Coalescence, Schwartzchild, Particular Events, Singular Events, Singles Schmingles, The Singles Caravan.** Bob DeWolf's entry, **SOLE TALK**, won first place.

With the diligent help of Don Steivers, the general membership ratified the By-Laws at the June 1973 meeting. Don introduced his staff as follows: Bruce Collier, "headquarters advisor," Bob DeWolf, "the legal beagle," Phyllis (Mays) Snyder, "hostess with the mostest," Jan Moore, "superb typing," Fadil Mehmed, "advice and comfort," Angie Stockemer, "sharp and to the point," George Thurlow, "authoring most of the wording," George Thuro, "daring to disagree when it was agreeable," John Zlatic, "always there when needed."

George Thurlow--1974

Armin Kaufstein--1975

Don Steivers--1976

Wanda (Frome) Guthrie-- 1977

Ruth Worley-- 1978, 1979

Reg Allen--1980

Robert Georgeon—1981

Joan Haynes—1982

Gerry Dunie—1983

Bob Lewis—1984

Ab Ezekiel—1985

Dorothy McCorkle—1986



CONFIRMATION REPORT

Jim Labor—1987 ~~E~~

Richard Booth—1988, 1989

Bill Hobbs—1990 ~~HALL~~

Teri (Gerrity) Jones—1991

Doby ~~Hill~~—1992 ~~E~~

Richard Booth—1993, 1994

Bridget O'Sullivan—1995

Betty Snow—1996, 1997

Newton Bernstein-- 1998

### REUNION 1998 Harwood Lodge

A few letters and phone calls were received by George Thuro from people who could not make it to the reunion. If you would like to get in contact with the following people, please call George Thuro at 714-557-3874 to get their mailing address or their e-Mail address:

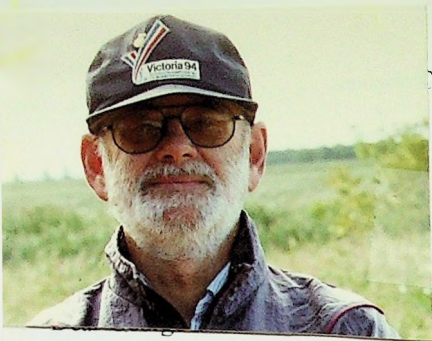
George Thurlow, Velma Mitchell, Bruce Collier, George MacKelvey, Angela Stockemer, Doby Hall, Reg Allen, Dorothy (Beck) McInnis, Doug Hough

GEORGE THURO

PH @ WORK

714 - 593 - 7362

OR 714 - 962 - 2411 EXT 5075



3699 Marine Vista  
Cobble Hill, B.C. V0R 1L1  
Canada  
April 13, 1998



Thanks for your e-mail the chance to bring our old friends up to date.

I used to say the Sierra Club changed my life. I went from a shiftless bum to a bum who hiked, biked and skied. Most of our best and enduring friendships are those made directly from the Sierra Club (and the Canyon Explorers Club).

After I became "de-singled" in 1983 by marrying Dorothy, I became less active in the Sierra Singles. However, many of our friends were and are still active in the Sierra Singles.

In 1991 Dorothy and I moved to Canada (Dorothy is a Canadian citizen). We now live in Cobble Hill, a small community about a 45 minute drive north of the City of Victoria. In a way it's the best of all worlds for us in the sense of being in and near the great outdoors but less than an hours drive from the very beautiful and interesting City of Victoria. For those who might not know, we do live on an island, albeit a very large one. Therefore, it's a ferry or boat ride or airline flight to get to and from the island.

Our house overlooks the ocean and Saltspring Island in the foreground. Further away are the Saanich Peninsula, the San Juan Islands, and on any one of our many clear days, the glacier-clad Mt. Baker. This time of year Bald Eagles are quite common; a changing wildlife scene takes place throughout the year. If the Bald Eagles wander too far north into Indian Reserve territory they stand a very good chance of being shot.

So, with all this good stuff around us we do not travel as much as when we lived in Southern California. However, we do manage at least one "major" trip per year plus as many other smaller trips, we feel like. The local Sierra Club has an active outings program, but most events are on the weekends. Incidentally, the photos are from an Elderhostel we attended near Portage La Prairie, Manitoba.

So, as they say in hockey-crazy Canda:

**KEEP YOUR STICK ON THE ICE**

John and Dorothy Tenero